

WHAT IS CLAIMED:

Claim 1. (Original) A handled container of the gable top variety having at least first, second, third and fourth side walls and a longitudinal centerline comprising

a major rectangular planar panel,

a minor rectangular planar panel,

said major planar panel being dimensionally larger than said minor planar panel,

said major and minor planar panels being sized and oriented to define at least an outer top surface of a gable top of the container and define a fin which extends substantially between opposite ones of the side walls of the container when the container is closed,

an imaginary space defined above said major panel by projected extensions of the first, second and third side walls and a plane oriented substantially normal to the longitudinal centerline of the container and intersecting said projected extensions of the first, second and third side walls, said space having a generally truncated triangular cross section having its apex disposed adjacent said fin, and

a handle associated with said major panel and disposed within said imaginary space.

Claim 2. (Original) The handled container of Claim 1 wherein said handle is of an overall curved geometry having first and second ends and a body portion disposed therebetween, one of said first and second ends being anchored to said major panel at a location adjacent said fin and the other of said first and second ends being anchored to said major panel adjacent the intersection of said plane and said projected extension of that side wall of the container which is oriented parallel to said fin, said body portion of said handle being spaced apart from said major panel to define an opening suitable for the receipt of at least one finger of a user's hand for manipulation of the container.

Claim 3. (Withdrawn) The handled container of Claim 1 wherein said handle comprises an elongated central core having a plurality of individual oriented

substantially normal to the length of said central core and spaced apart from one another along the length of said central core.

Claim 4. (Currently Amended) The handled container of Claim 1 wherein said handle includes a plurality of discs aligned in stacked relationship to one another, each of said discs and including one or more perimetral aberrations disposed on the outer perimetral surface of one or more of said discs.

Claim 5. (Original) The handled container of Claim 1 wherein said major planar panel is disposed in a plane which is oriented at an angle of between about 20 and about 25 degrees with respect to the longitudinal centerline of the container.

Claim 6. (Original) The handled container of Claim 1 wherein said handle exhibits a continuously curving geometry from end to end thereof.

Claim 7. (Withdrawn) The handled container of Claim 1 wherein said handle exhibits a multi-segmented geometry from end to end thereof.

Claim 8. (Original) The handled container of Claim 1 and including a pour spout associated with said minor planar panel.

Claim 9. (Original) The handled container of Claim 1 wherein no material portion of said handle projects beyond the footprint of the container.

Claim 10. (Original) The handled container of Claim 1 wherein said handle is formed from a polymeric material or paperboard.

Claim 11. (Original) The handled container of Claim 1 wherein said handle includes first and second opposite ends and a body portion extending between said ends, said body portion being aligned with the longitudinal centerline of the container.

Claim 12. (Original) The handled container of Claim 1 wherein said handle includes first and second opposite ends and including a substantially planar base

affixed to said first and second opposite ends, said base being adapted to be anchored to said major planar panel with said handle projecting outwardly from said major planar panel.

Claim 13. (Withdrawn) The handled container of Claim 12 and including an opening defined through the thickness of said major planar panel and said base is disposed internally of said container and in covering relationship to said opening and with said handle projecting through said opening and outwardly from said major planar panel.

Claim 14. (Withdrawn) The handled container of Claim 13 wherein said base is sealed about its outer perimetral margin to the perimetral margin of said opening.

Claim 15. (Withdrawn) The handled container of Claim 14 wherein said base is disposed internally of said container.

Claim 16. (Withdrawn) The handled container of Claim 14 wherein said base is ultrasonically welded to said major planar panel.

Claim 17. (Original) The handled container of Claim 1 wherein said panels are formed from paperboard.

Claim 18. (Withdrawn) A blank for the formation of a handled container of the gable top type comprising first, second, third, fourth, and fifth side panels which are disposed in side-by-side relationship to one another and defined by fold lines interposed along contiguous ones of the respective sides edges thereof, each of said side panels including a top end including a first plurality of foldable panels and a bottom end including a second plurality of foldable panels, said second plurality of foldable panels being foldable to define a bottom of a container, said first plurality of panels, each of which is integrally joined along respective fold lines to one or more adjacent panels an/or to said top end of one of said side panels, said first plurality of panels including at least a major and a minor top panel, said major panel being larger in area than said minor panel

second and fourth top panels individually divided by fold lines into triangular portions suitable for forming a gusset fold on each of the opposite sides of a container erected from the blank to define a gable top of the container cooperatively with said major and minor top panels,

said major planar top panel being integrally formed with said top end of said first side panel along a fold line,

said a minor planar top panel being integrally formed with said top end of said third side panel along a fold line,

said major planar top panel being of substantially equal width as said minor planar top panel and of an area between about 30% and about 40% greater than the area of said minor planar top panel whereby upon erection of a container from the blank, said major and minor top planar panels are disposed on opposite sides of the container and become parts of the gable top of the erected container,

each of said major and minor top panels including a distal side,

a fin panel integrally formed along a fold line with and extending along said distal side of each of said major and minor top panels, and

an opening defined through the thickness of said minor planar panel for the receipt therein of a pour spout.

Claim 19. (Withdrawn) The blank of Claim 18 and including an opening defined through the thickness of said major planar top panel for the receipt and mounting therein of a handle for a container erected from the blank.